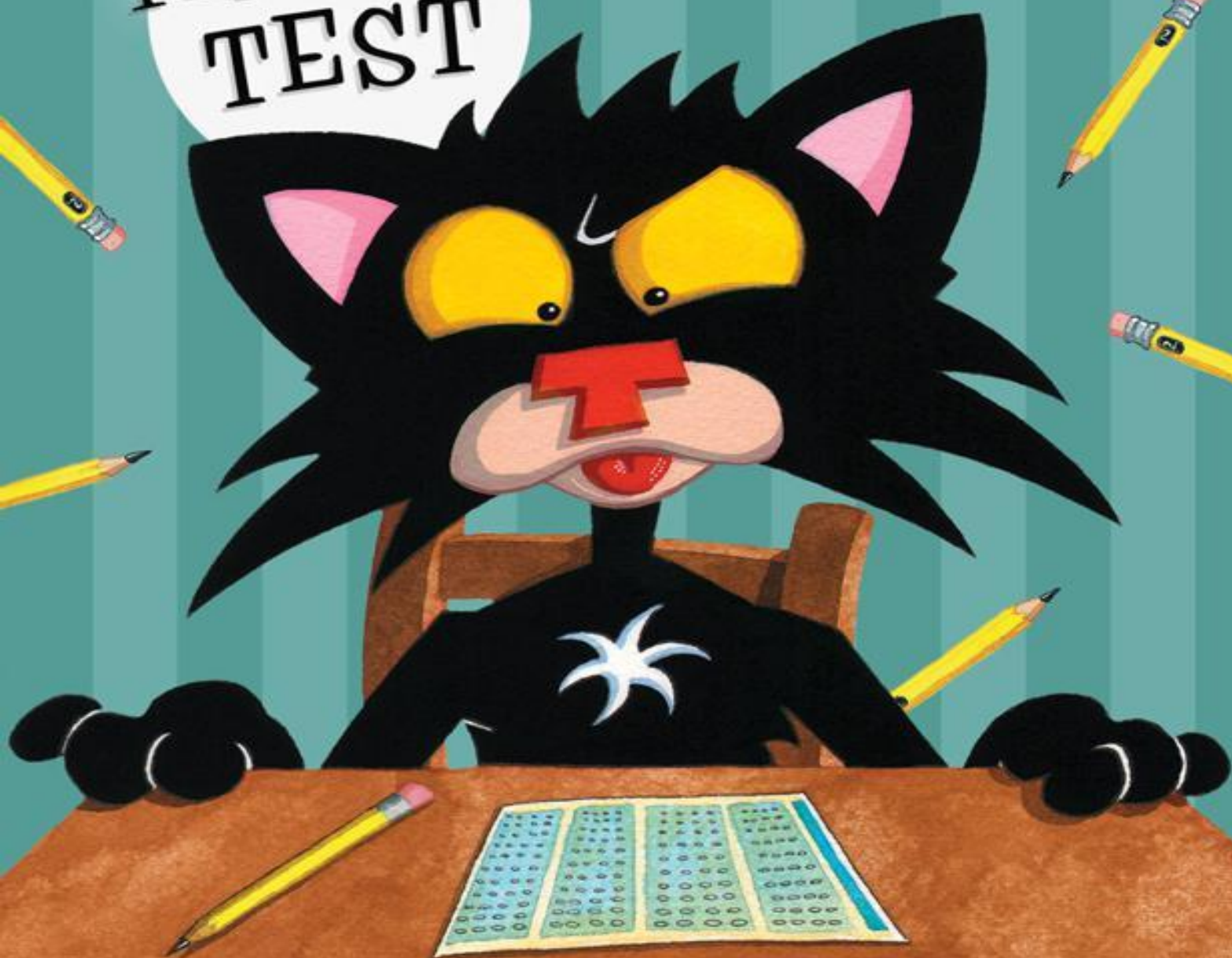


NICK BRUEL

BAD KITTY

Takes the
TEST



The New York Times Bestselling Series

BAD KITTY

Takes the
Test

NICK BRUEL



A NEAL PORTER BOOK
ROARING BROOK PRESS
NEW YORK

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To Aurora

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A Neal Porter Book

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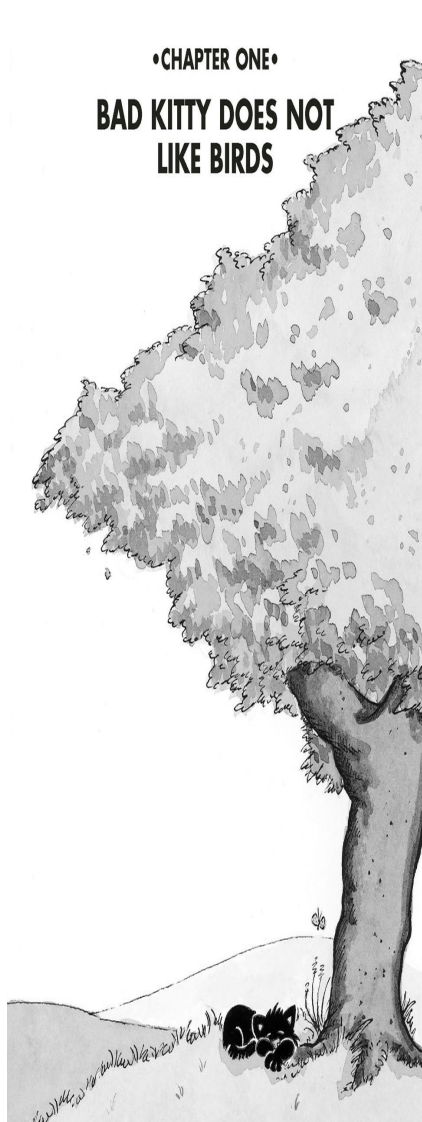
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Kitty loves birds.

She loves how they flit.
She loves how they flap.
She loves how they flutter.



When Kitty sees birds,
she wants to play with them.

She really, really, REALLY
wants to play with them.



The birds also want to play with Kitty.
They want to play hide-and-seek.



The birds are very good at hiding.
They're hiding in the tree.



But Kitty sees them!

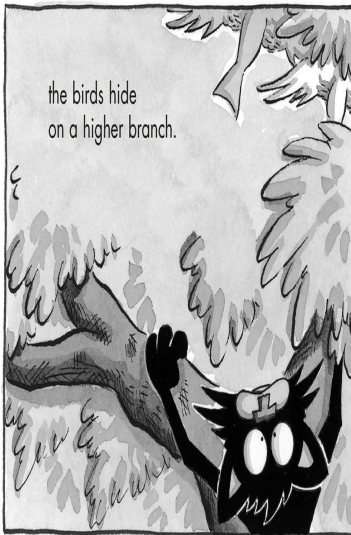
Kitty is very good at seeking.
And she's very good at climbing.



Kitty finds the birds!
She's just about to play with them when . . .



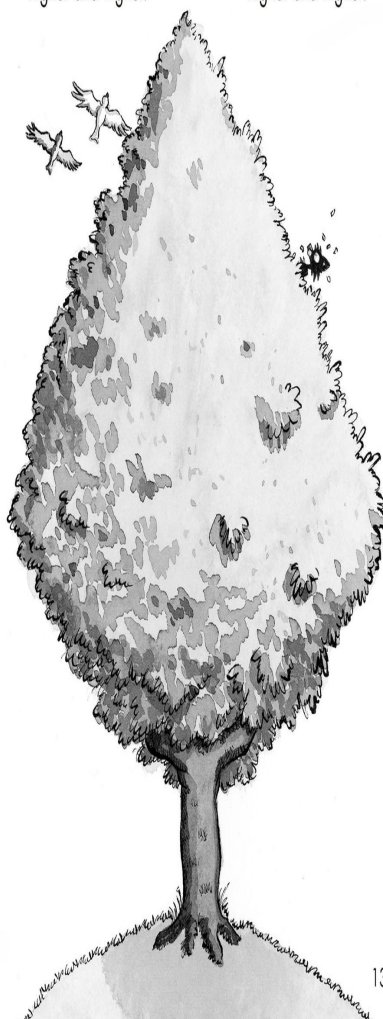
the birds hide
on a higher branch.





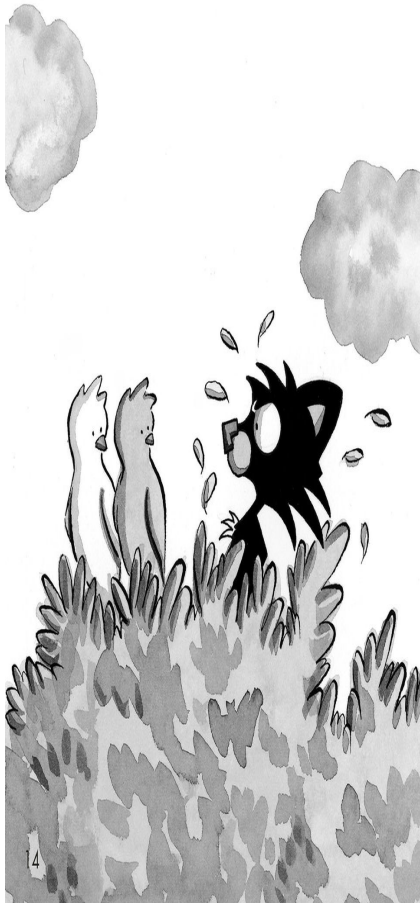
The birds keep hiding
higher and higher.

Kitty keeps climbing
higher and higher.



Soon, the birds are at the top of the tree. There is no tree left.

Now Kitty wants to play another game with her new friends: TAG!

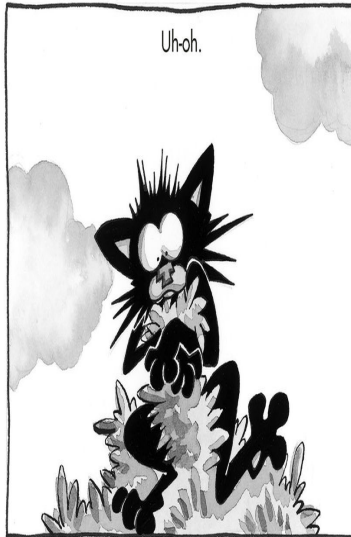


But the birds don't want to play that game.
Too bad.

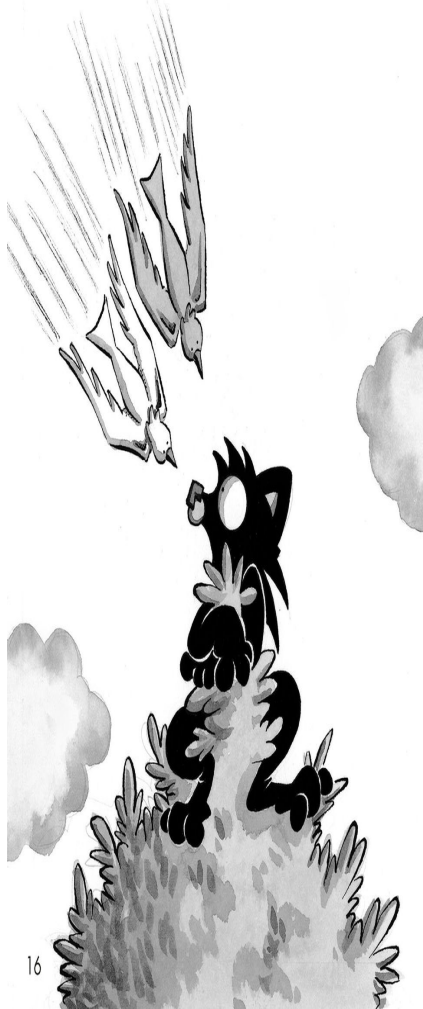
Now Kitty has no one to play with.



Uh-oh.

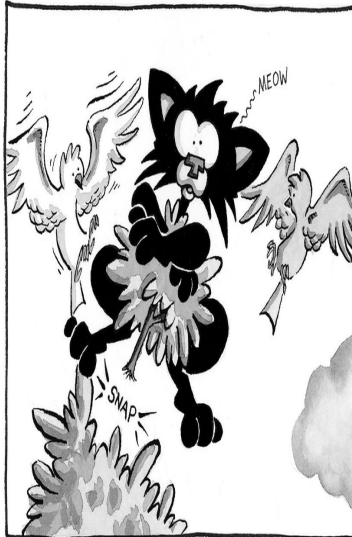
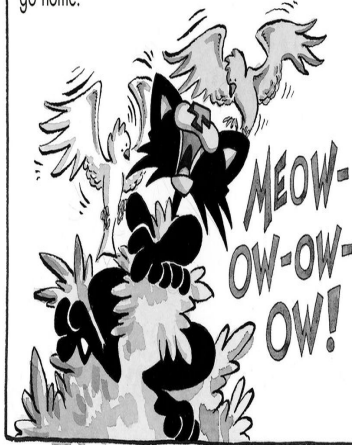


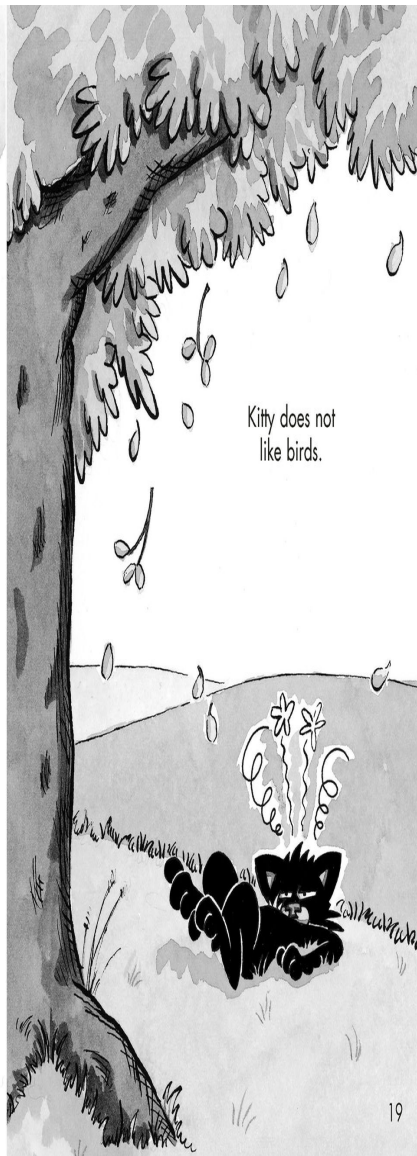
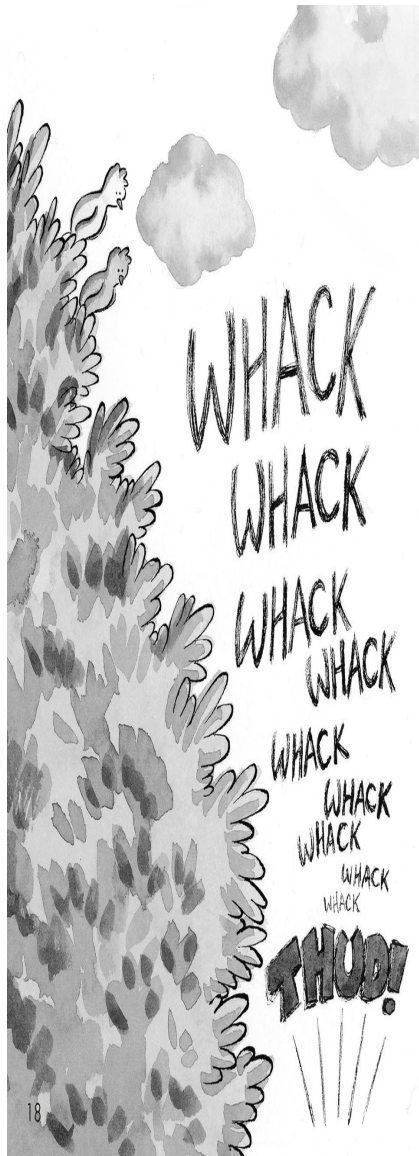
Oh, good! The birds have come back to play with Kitty and help her down from the tree.



16

But Kitty does not want their help. She just wants to go home.





•CHAPTER TWO•

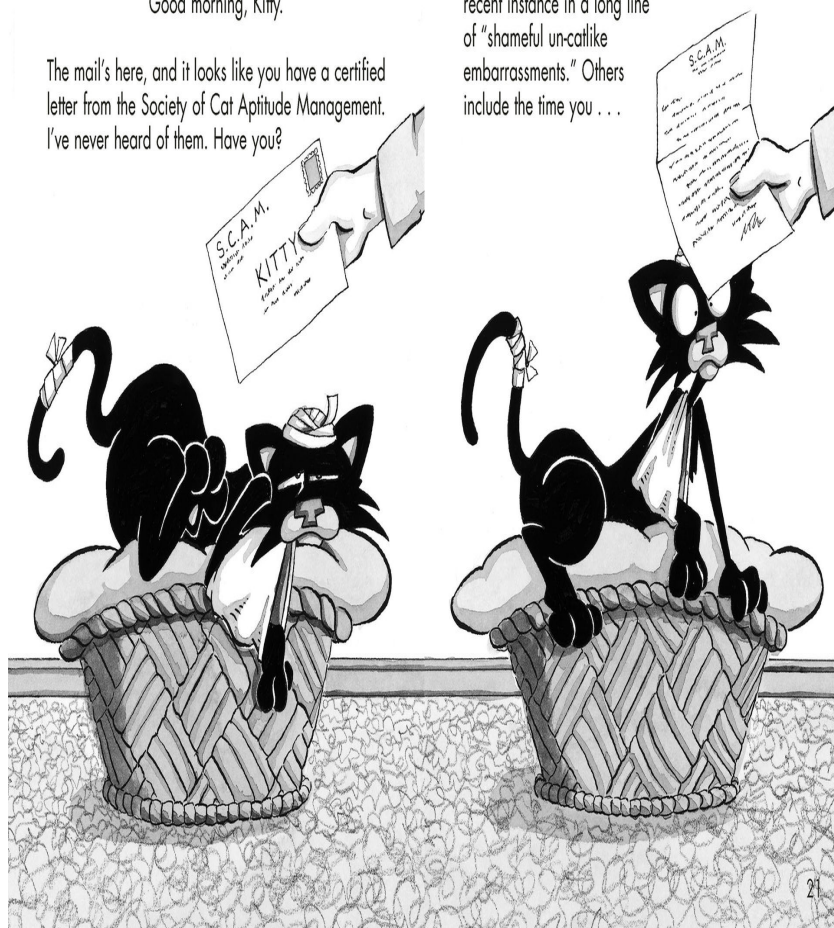
THE NEXT DAY

Good morning, Kitty.

The mail's here, and it looks like you have a certified letter from the Society of Cat Aptitude Management. I've never heard of them. Have you?

Uh-oh. This doesn't look good.

It looks like they know about your run-in with those birds yesterday. Apparently it's considered the most recent instance in a long line of "shameful un-catlike embarrassments." Others include the time you . . .





woke up suddenly and
fell behind the
sofa,



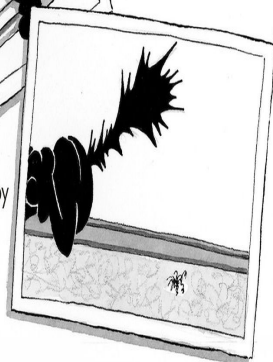
tried to jump
on the desk
but landed
in the
plants,



got stuck in the
venetian blinds,



allowed the baby
to dress you up
for Halloween,



were frightened by
a spider, which
turned out to be
a ball of lint,



and let the
dog sit on
you while
you were
sleeping.

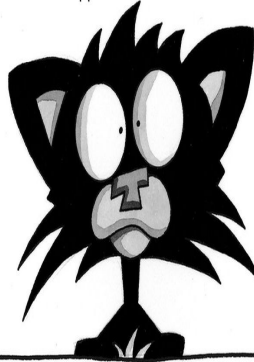
So apparently because of this recent string of embarrassing behavior, your cat license has been REVOKED.

I didn't even know there was such a thing.



The letter goes on.

In order to renew your cat license, you have to take a special course on being a cat, followed by a TEST. This all happens tomorrow!



A test? Well, Kitty, a test is a process you go through to make sure you understand everything you've learned.

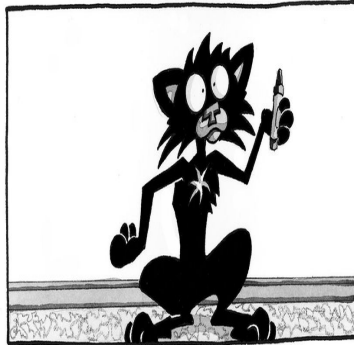


Now pay attention, Kitty. Here's the important part. If you PASS the test, then you'll get your license back.

I didn't even know you had one to begin with.



But if you DON'T pass the test . . . well . . . according to this letter, then you won't get your license and then apparently you won't . . . gosh . . . you won't be allowed to be a cat anymore!



Kitty, I don't make the rules. All I know is that you need to take this test tomorrow whether you like it or not. I have the address. I'll bring you there in the morning.

And will you please stop writing on the walls?! I've had to call the painters 14 times this month.

Kitty?! **KITTY!!!**
Sigh.

ARE YOU
INSANE?

E YOU
SANE?

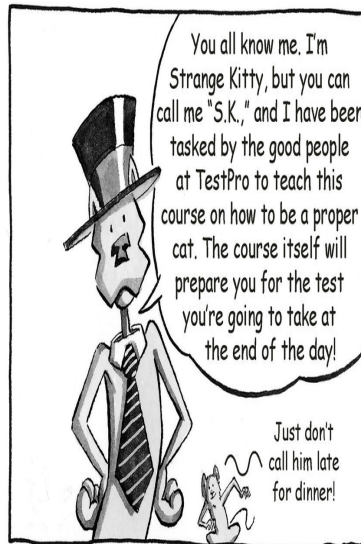


•CHAPTER THREE•

THE NEXT, NEXT DAY



GOOD
MORNING!
If you're
looking for
"Balloon
Decorating for
Fun and Profit,"
that class has
been moved
down the hall.



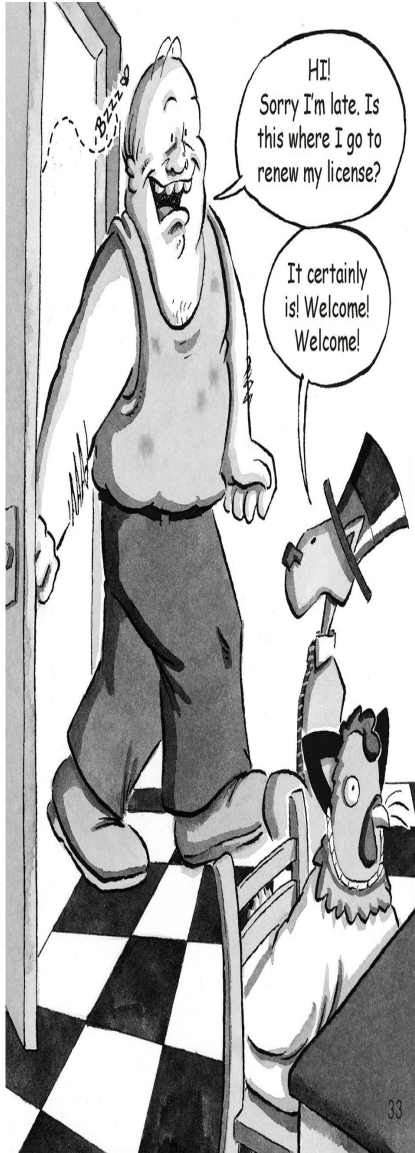
Just don't
call him late
for dinner!

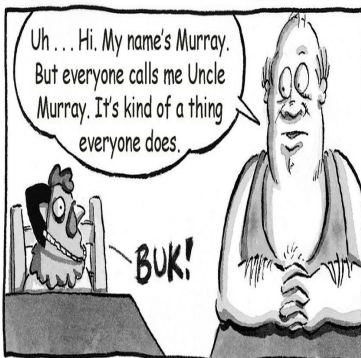
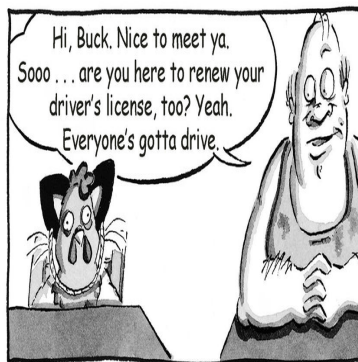
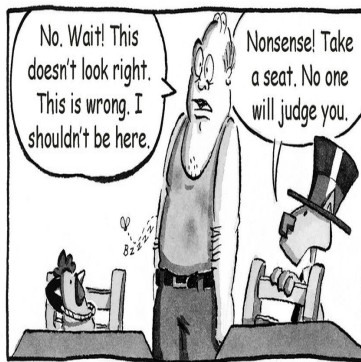
But before I do
anything else, I have
to take attendance.

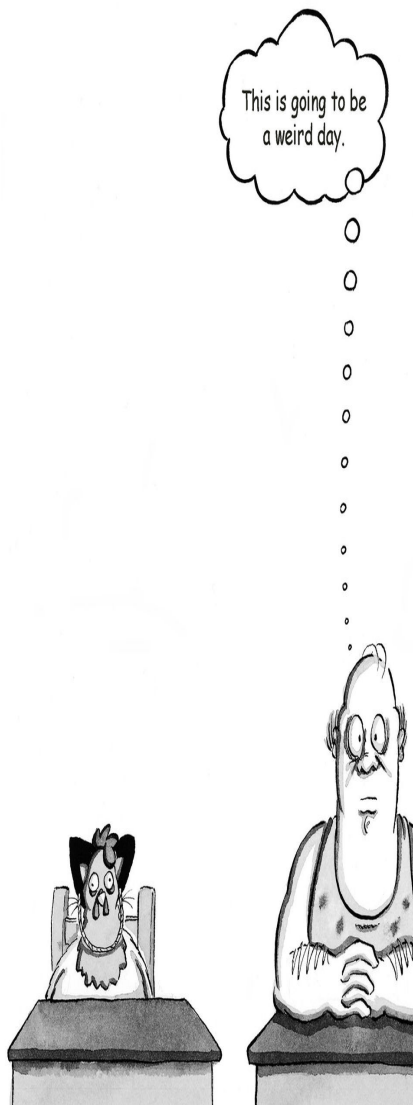
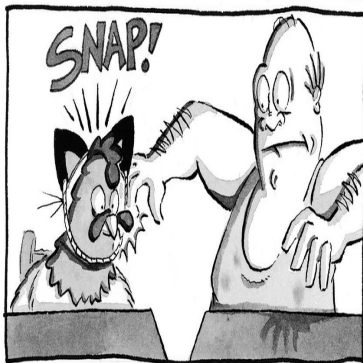


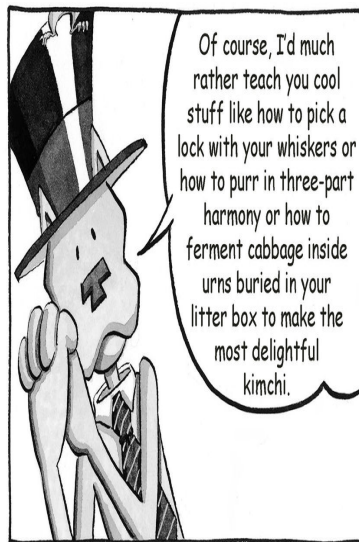
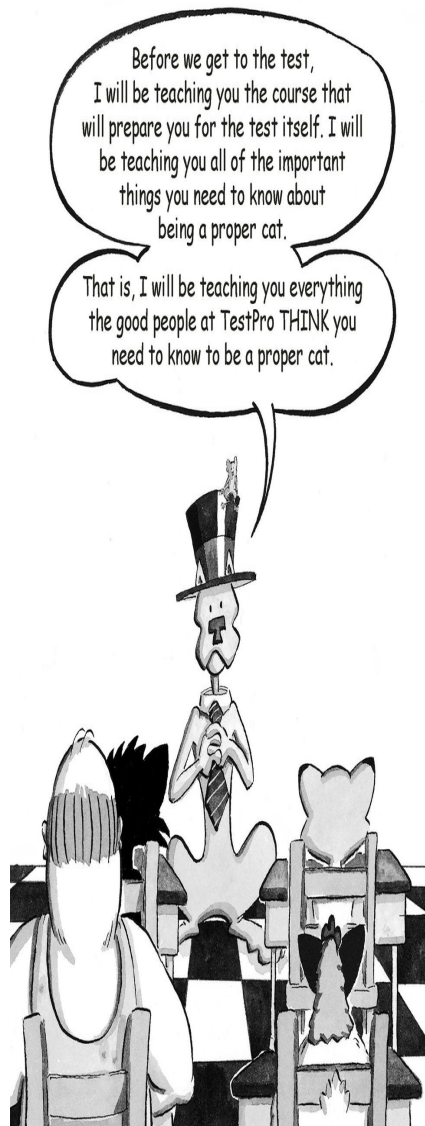


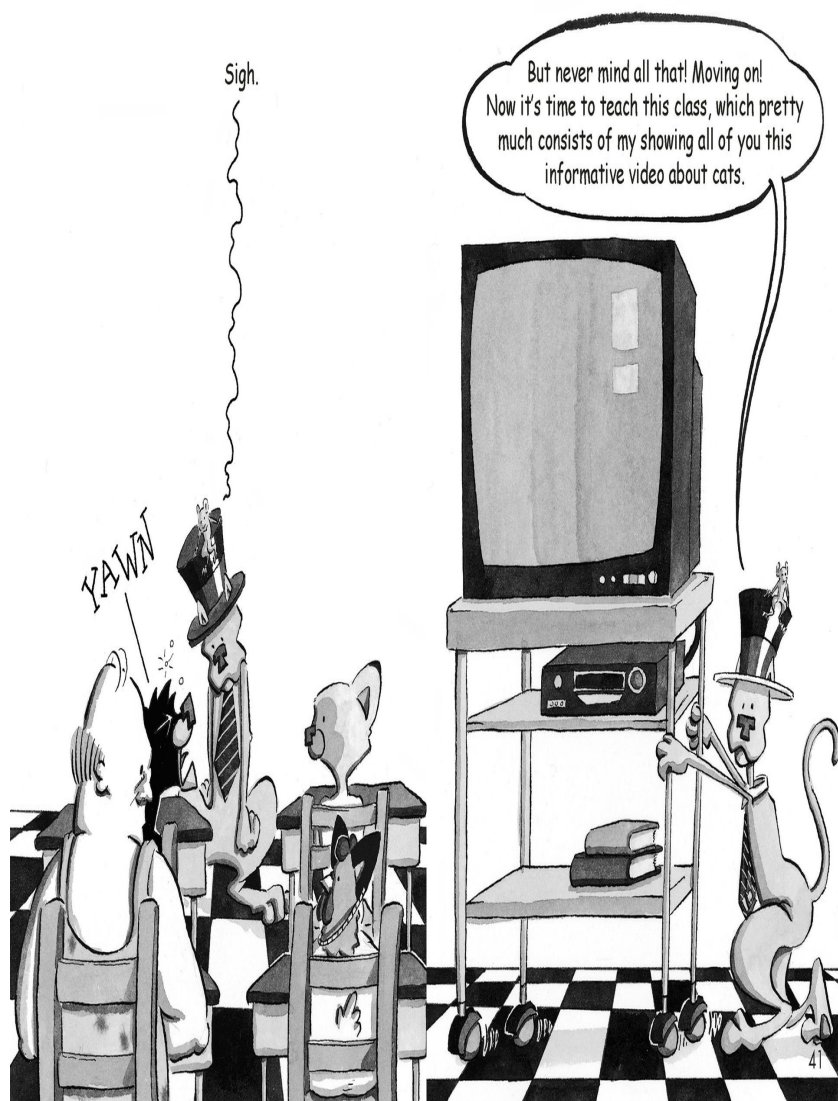
* I HAVE to pass this test! I NEED to pass this test. If I don't pass this test, then I won't be a cat. I don't know what I'd be. Maybe I'd be a walrus. I don't want to be a walrus. I'm sensitive to cold weather. I haven't slept in three days.

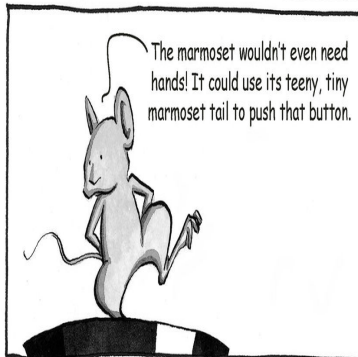
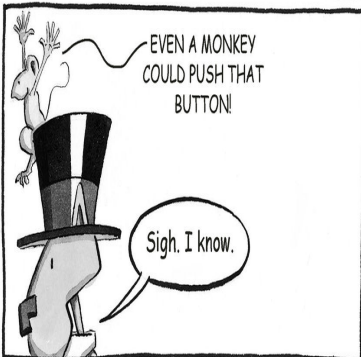
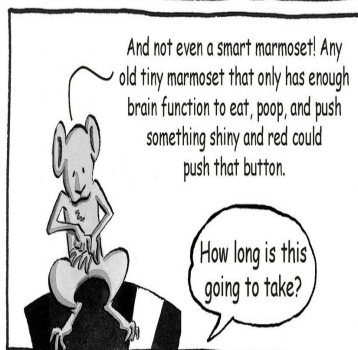
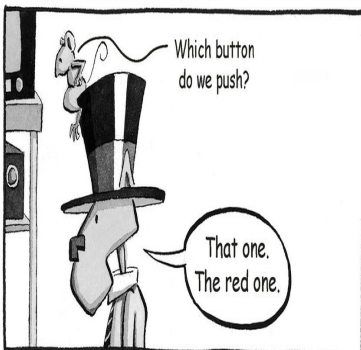
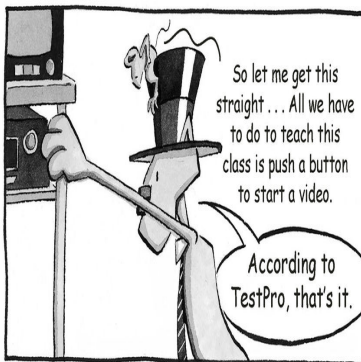


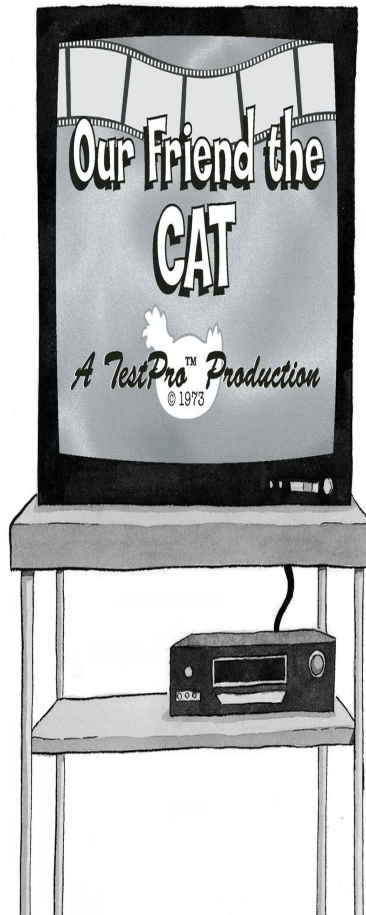
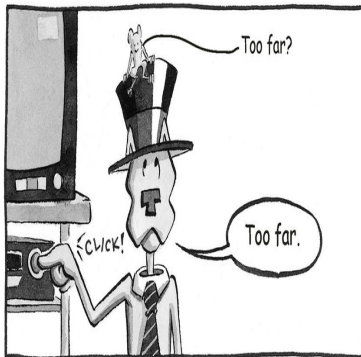
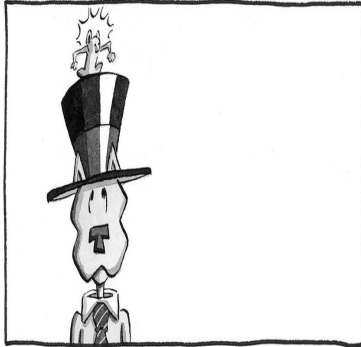
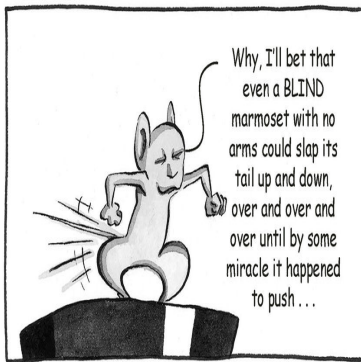






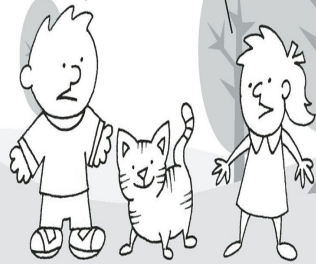




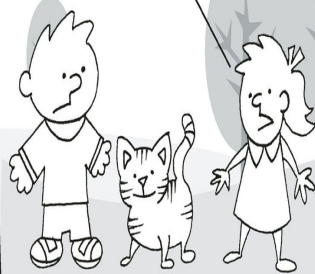


Gosh, Becky!
What is that thing?

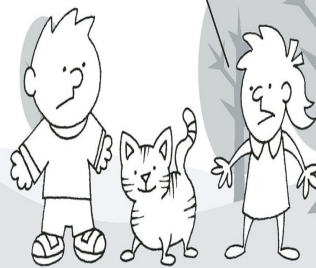
I don't know, Billy.
It sure is different!



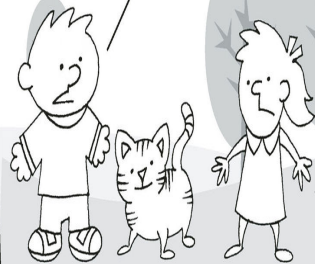
And maybe it could have a camera or even a
telephone connected to it so we could gather
and share information from anywhere in the
world by way of a global network of other
tiny computers.

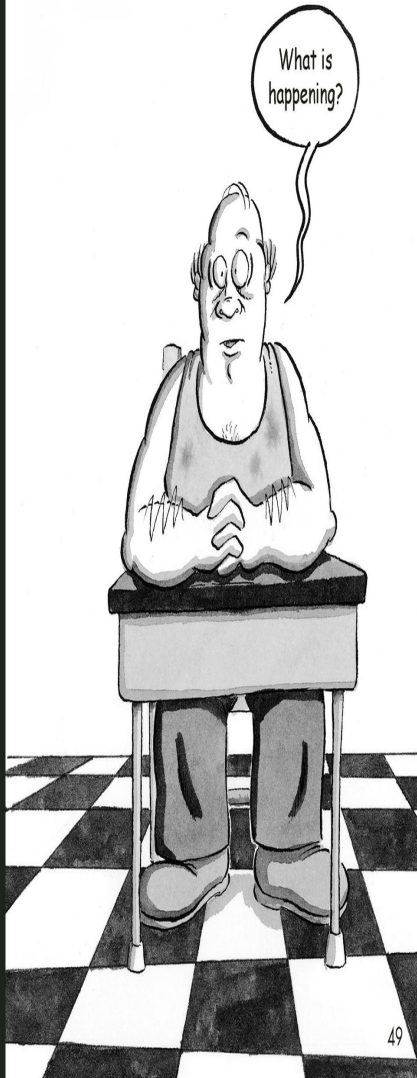


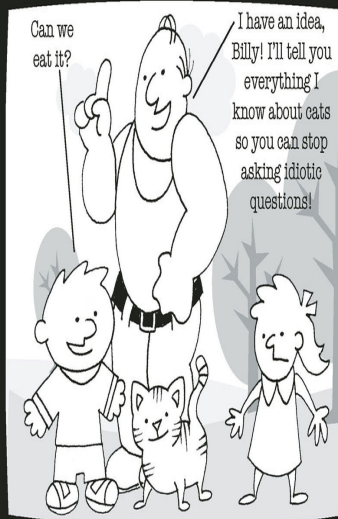
I wish we had some sort of device that could
tell us anything we needed to know at a
moment's notice, something like a tiny
computer we could hold in our hand.



You're weird.
Girls are weird.







UNCLE BARNEY'S FUN FACTS

WHAT IS A CAT?



- A cat is an animal.
- A giant squid is also an animal. It has tentacles.



- Cats do not have tentacles, therefore they are rarely mistaken for giant squids.
- Other animals that are not cats are squirrels, giraffes, lobsters, and porcupines.
- Cats typically have four legs. If a cat has less than four legs or more than four legs, then something is wrong and medical attention may be required.

• In 1963, the French sent the first cat into space, a black-and-white Parisian street cat named Félicette who traveled 100 miles above the Earth in a capsule before descending safely back to the ground by parachute.

• "Cat" in Vietnamese is *con mèo*.

• The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 400,000 people are bitten by cats in the United States every year. No one has died from their injuries.

• "Cat" in Swahili is *paka*.



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• Legend has it that Sir Isaac Newton, the scientist and mathematician who discovered gravitational mechanics and created calculus, also invented the cat flap on doors because he was tired of constantly getting up from his experiments to let his cat, Spithead, in and out of his study.



• That's right . . . Sir Isaac Newton named his cat Spithead.

• "Cat" in Icelandic is *köttur*.

• "Cat" spelled backward is "tao," which are the first three letters in the word "taco," which is a delicious food that cats will sometimes eat when dropped on the floor.



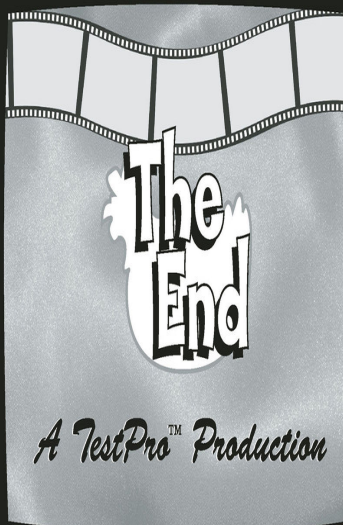
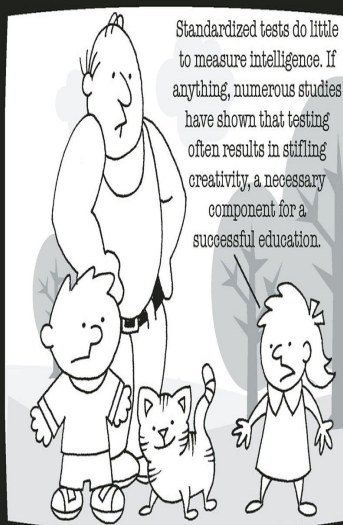
• In the early 1980s, the CIA launched Operation Acoustic Kitty, an actual plan to use cats as spies. Cats would be trained to eavesdrop on Russian conversations.

They would be released nearby with microphones implanted in their ears, transmitters attached to their collars, and antennae tied to their tails. The first cat agent was deployed and then run over by a taxi moments later. Twenty million dollars was spent on the program that was terminated shortly thereafter.

• Spithead.



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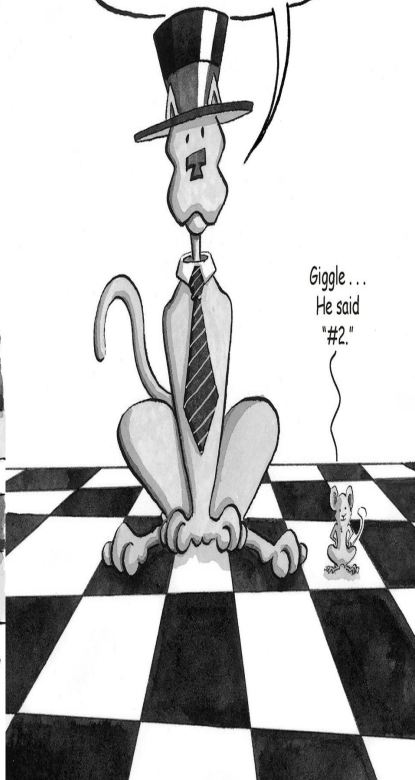
*In 1894, Thomas Edison used his recently invented Kinetograph to film two cats boxing. It is considered to be the very first cat video. I hope THAT'S on the test!

•CHAPTER FOUR•

PREPARATION

Okay, class, now that you've seen the video, it's time to take a test to help you PREPARE for the real test.

Please take out your #2 pencils.





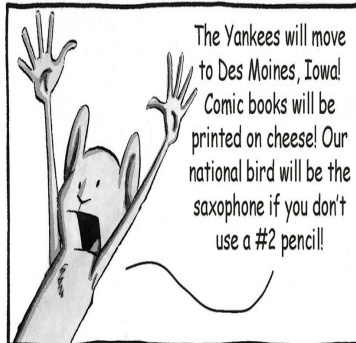
Mountains will crumble
if you don't use a #2 pencil!

Rivers will run red with tomato juice
if you don't use a #2 pencil!

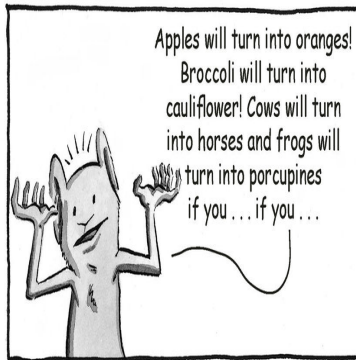
Oceans will become deserts! Deserts
will become shopping malls! The dead
shall rise from their graves to feast at
our all-you-can-eat shrimp buffets if
you don't use a #2 pencil!



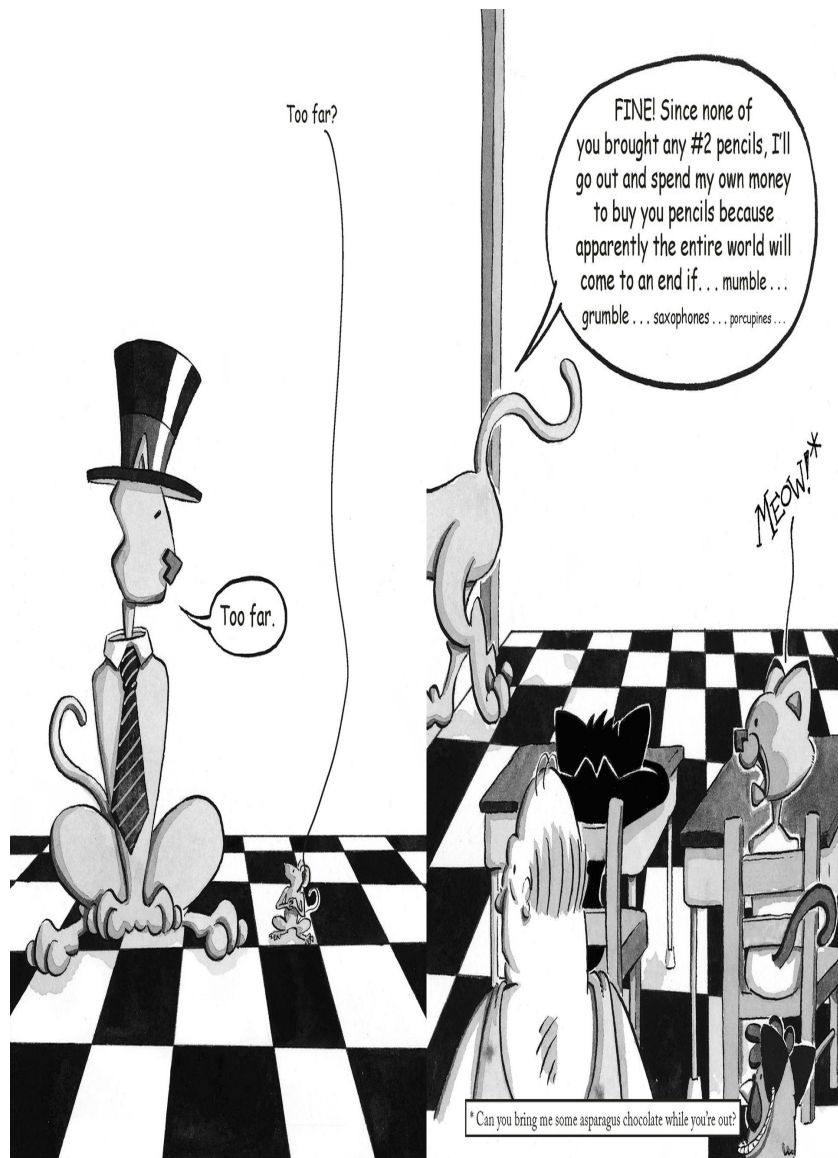
Food prices will
skyrocket! Kumquats will
become currency!
Chocolate will taste like
asparagus, and asparagus
will still taste like
asparagus if you
don't use a #2 pencil!

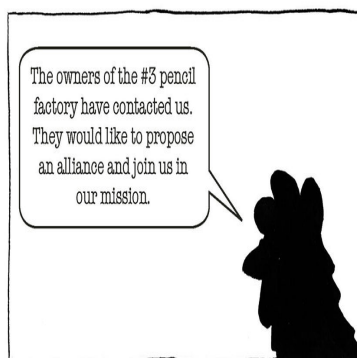
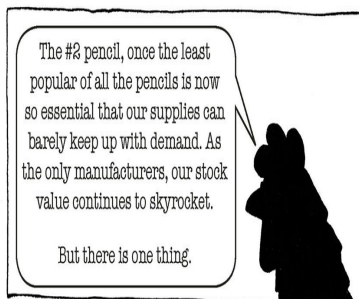
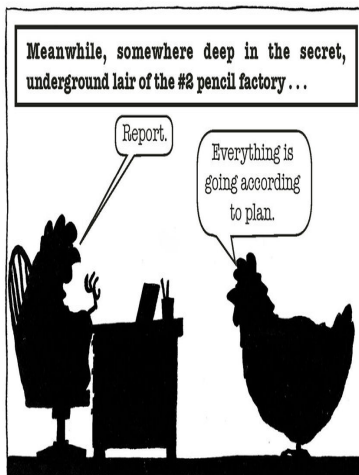


The Yankees will move
to Des Moines, Iowa!
Comic books will be
printed on cheese! Our
national bird will be the
saxophone if you don't
use a #2 pencil!

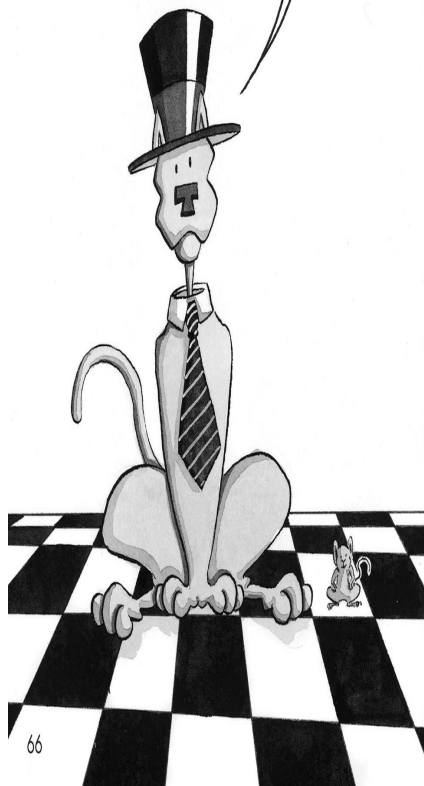


Apples will turn into oranges!
Broccoli will turn into
cauliflower! Cows will turn
into horses and frogs will
turn into porcupines
if you ... if you ...





Okay, class. Now that you all FINALLY have your #2 pencils, we can take the test that will prepare you for the next test. THAT test will prepare you for the next test. THAT test will prepare you for the next test. And THAT test will...

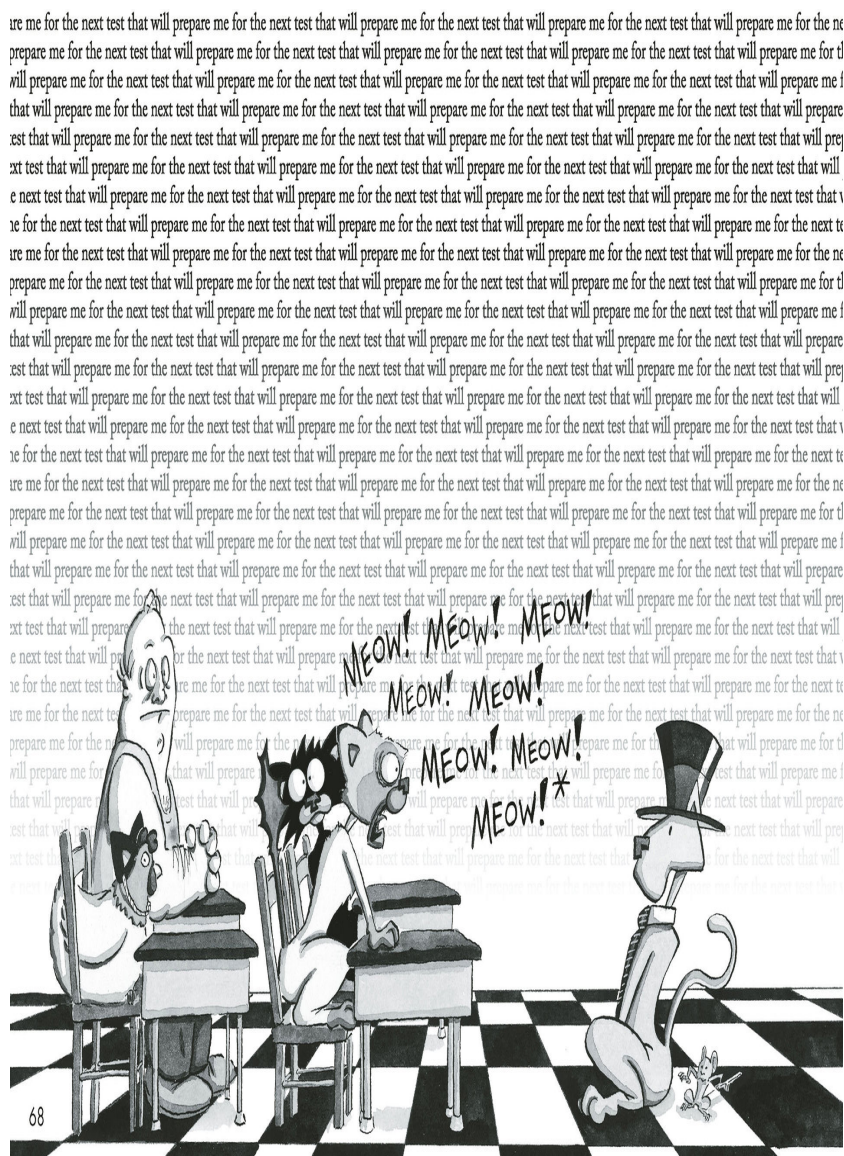


66

MEOW!*



MAKE IT STOP! I just want to take the %#&\$\$ test! I don't want to take tests that will prepare me for the next test that will prepare me for the next test that will...





* How many tests is it really?



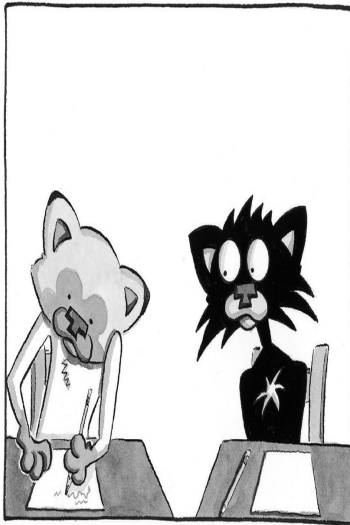
* Groan

70



* That sounds simultaneously disgusting and exquisite.

71



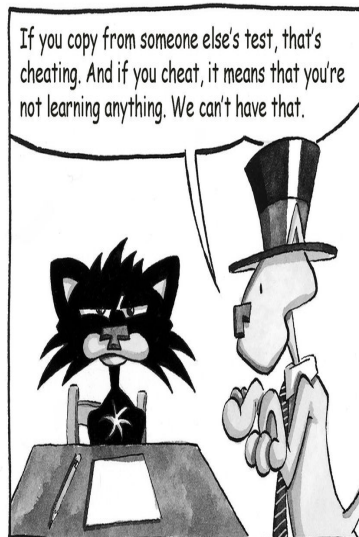
* Ahem! Can I help you?

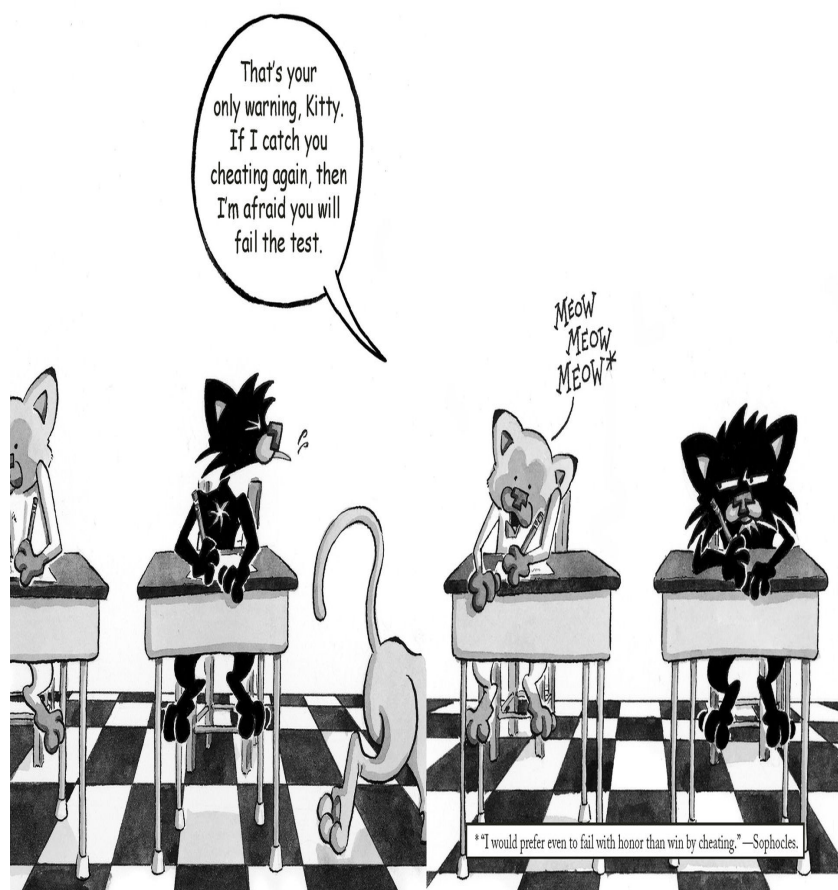


* Are you looking for something? Did you lose your pencil? Do you need more paper?



* Are you aware that psychologists recommend clear personal boundaries be set between two individuals in order to ensure an environment wherein their relationship can remain mutually respectful and supportive? And I can smell what you had for lunch.





•CHAPTER FIVE•

14 HOURS LATER

There, now. That wasn't so bad, was it? I think we're finally ready to take the actual test, the one that really counts.

It's the moment we've all been waiting for!

I just wanted to renew my driver's license.

I just wanted to renew my driver's license.

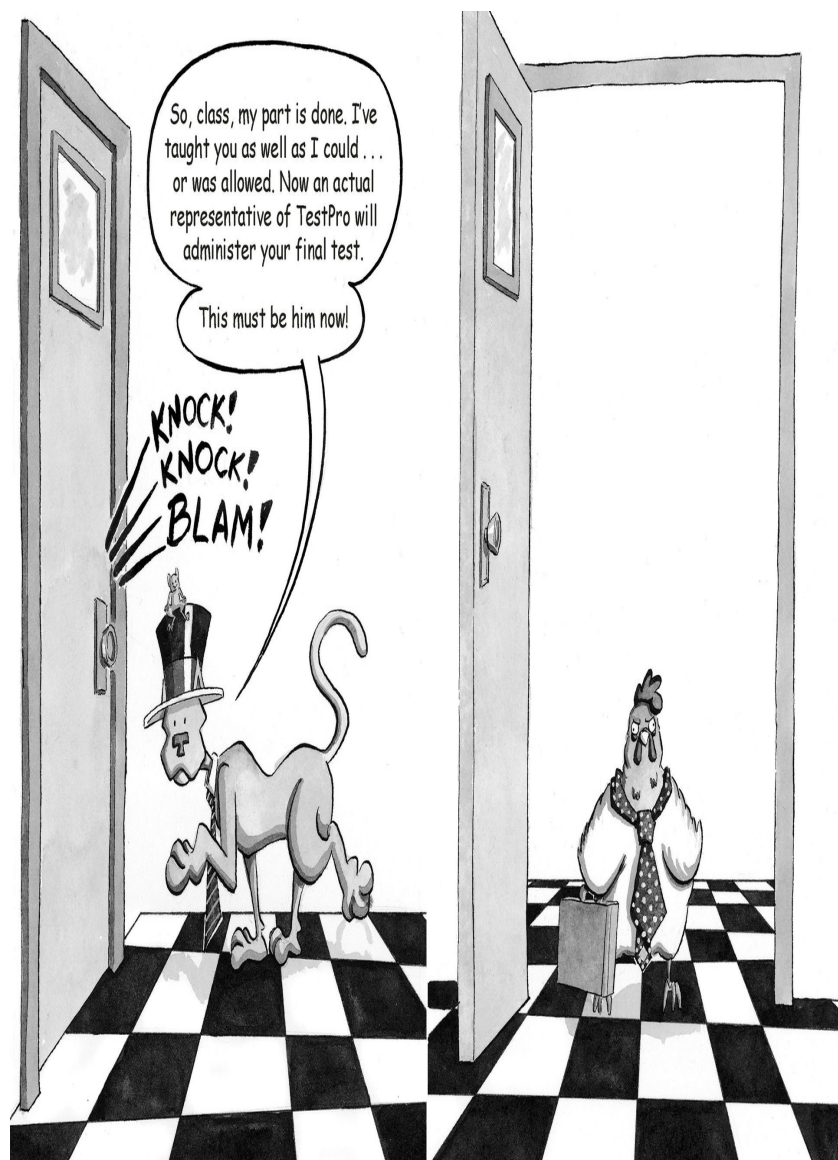
I just wanted to renew my driver's license.

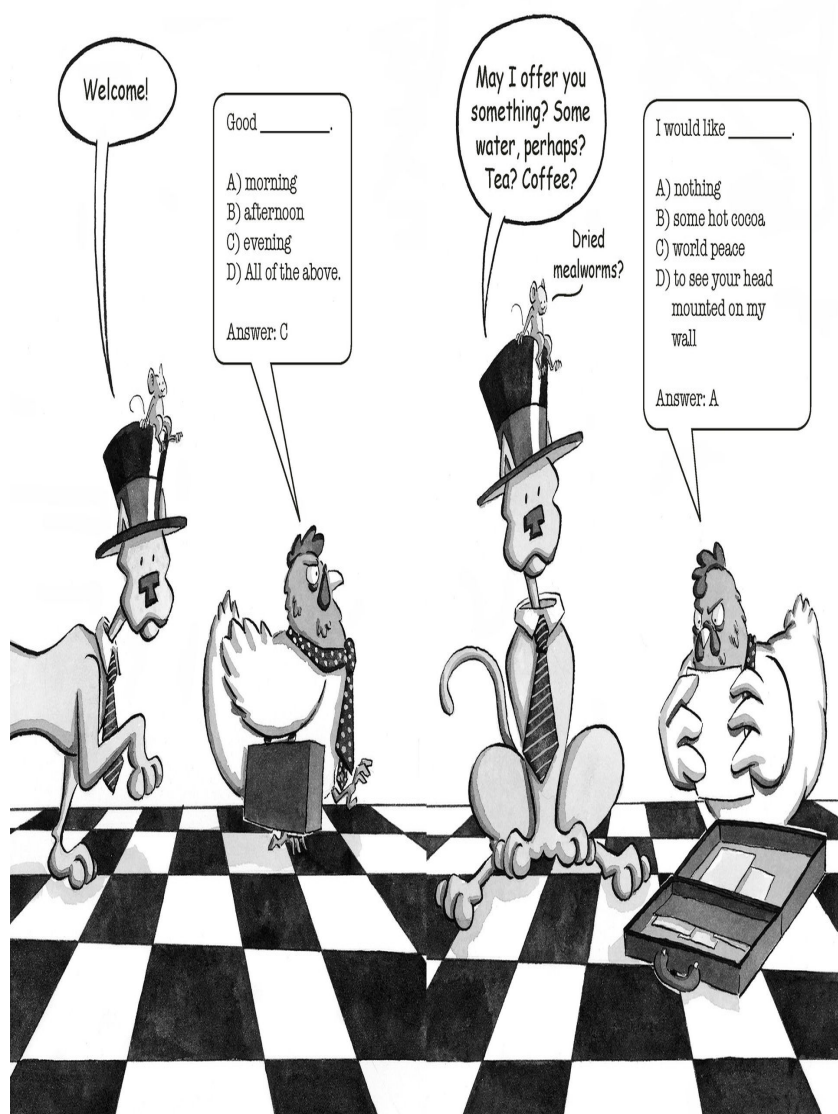
I just wanted to renew my driver's license.

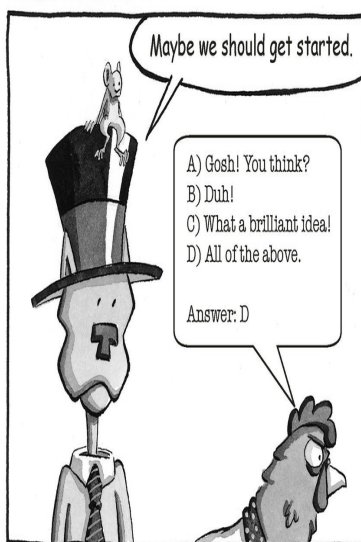
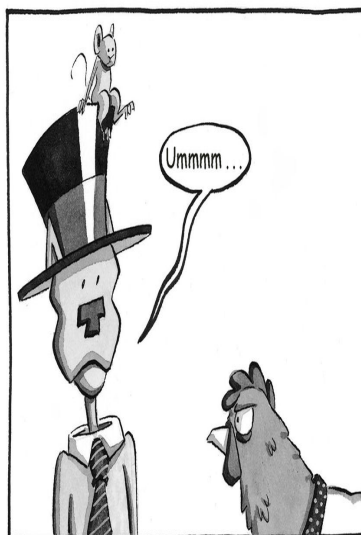
I just wanted to renew my driver's license.

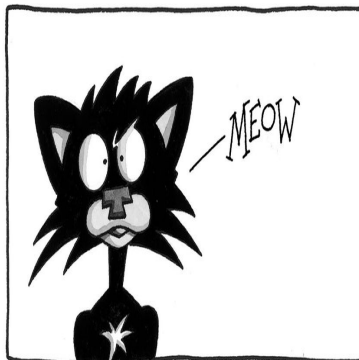
MEOW!*

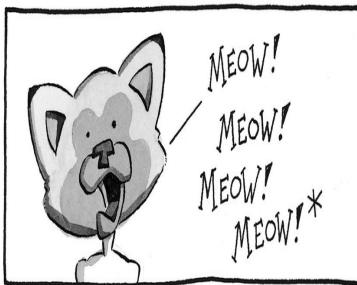
* I'm a little teapot, short and stout. Here is my handle . . .





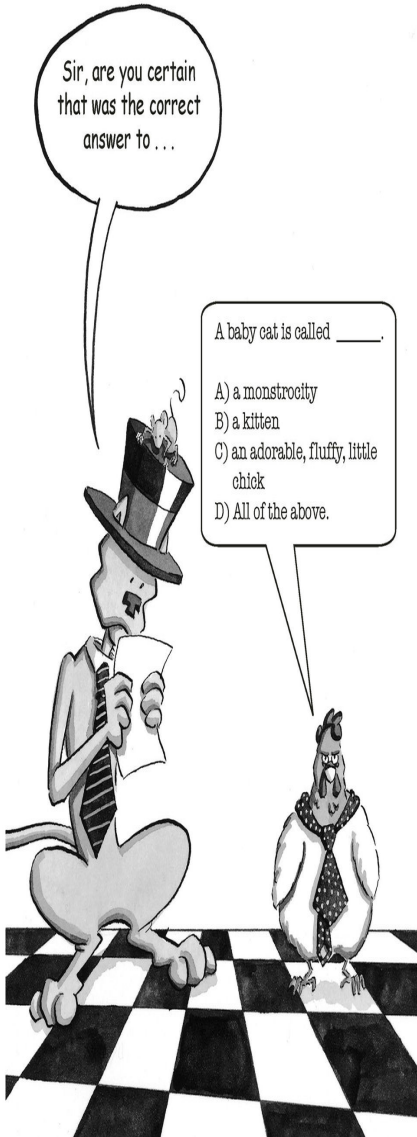
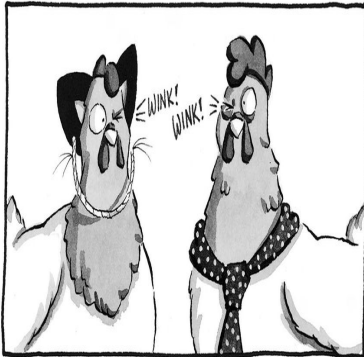


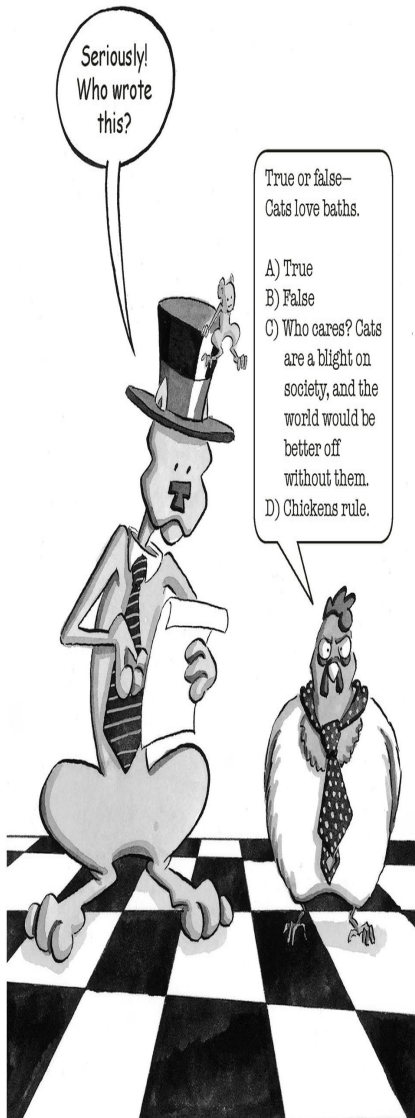
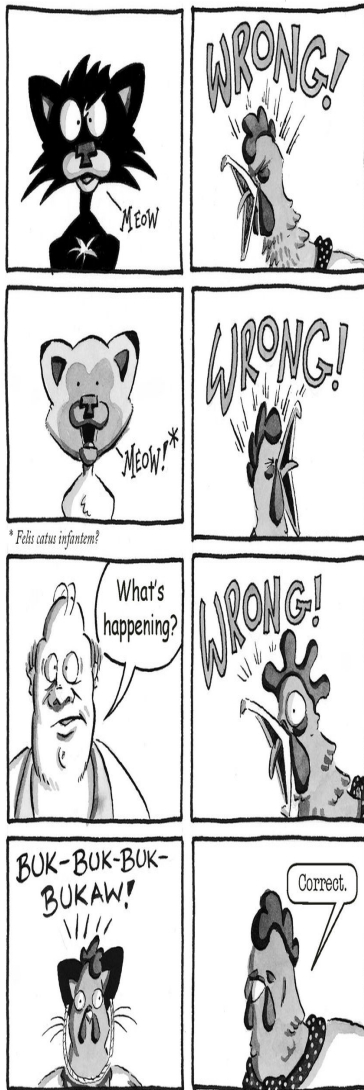


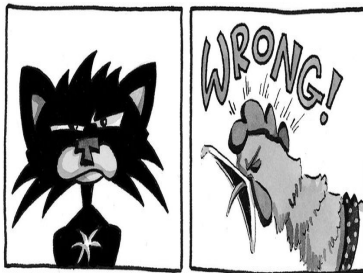


* Actually, the average cat has around 16 separate vocalizations with which they can communicate. This does not include body language like tail twitching or the roars that large cats commonly use ...









WRONG!



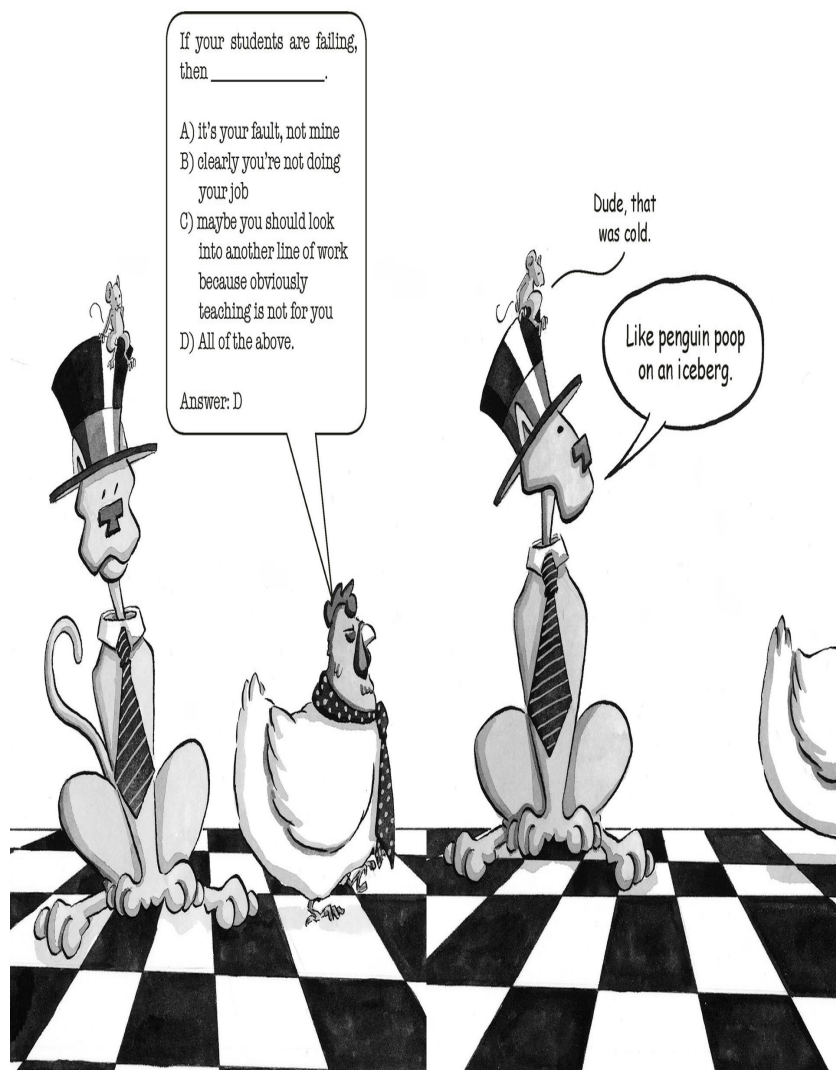
WRONG!

* Just tell me what you want me to say, and I'll say it.



WRONG!





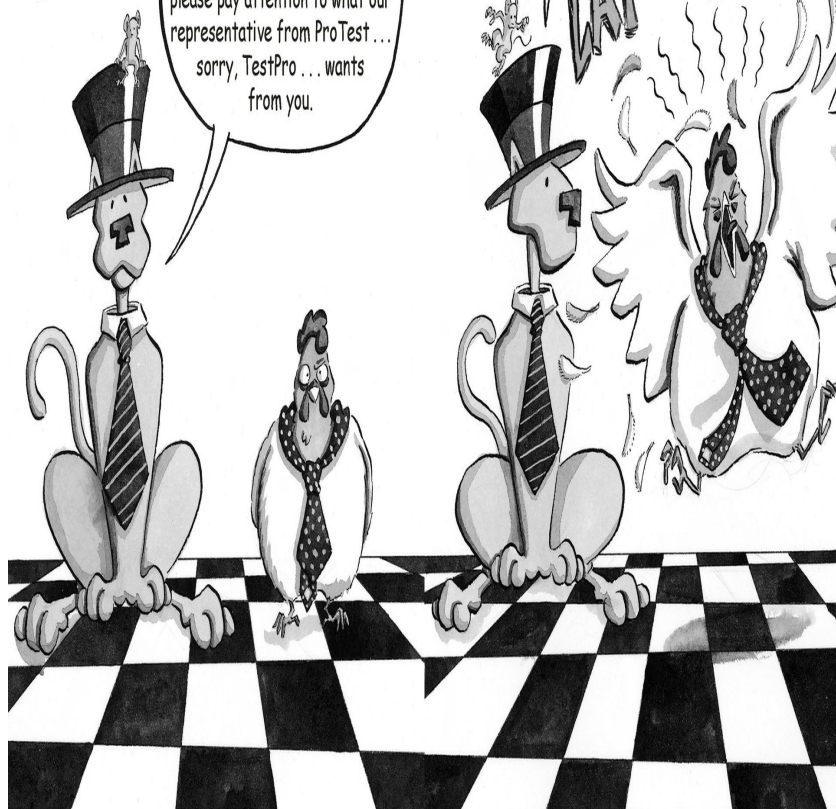
•CHAPTER SIX•

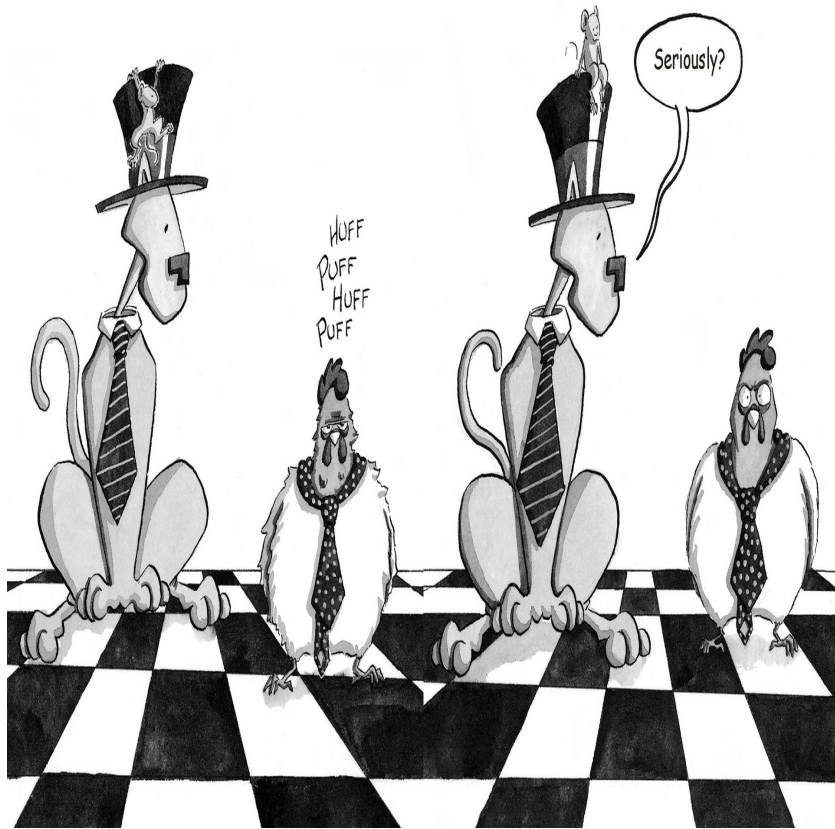
THE FINAL CHALLENGE

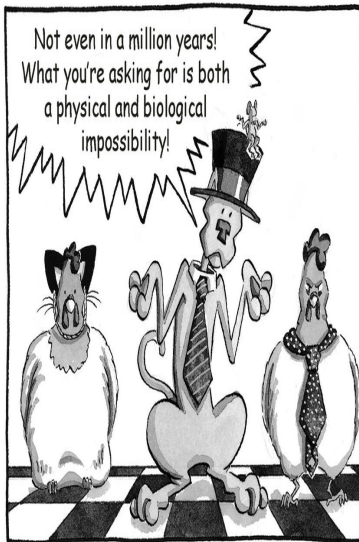
Class, there is one final challenge to this test. For some of you, this will be your very last chance to pass, so please pay attention to what our representative from ProTest ... sorry, TestPro ... wants from you.

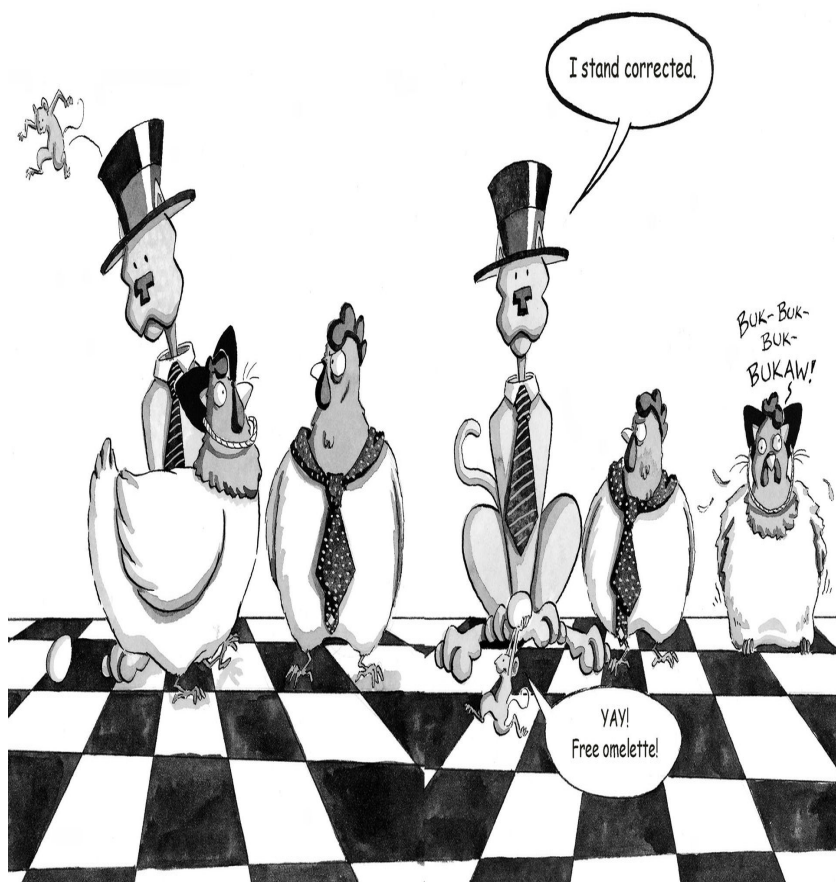
So, sir. I give you the floor. Please tell our students what they must do now in order to pass this ...

LAY AN EGG!









This proves that _____.

- A) the test is fair
- B) chickens are smarter than cats
- C) this is definitely, DEFINITELY not, not, NOT part of an overall scheme to prove to the world that chickens are smarter than cats and always have been so that chickens will eventually be kept as pets inside nice, warm houses while cats will be served at dinnertime on a bed of rice next to potatoes and green beans
- D) someday chickens will rule the world

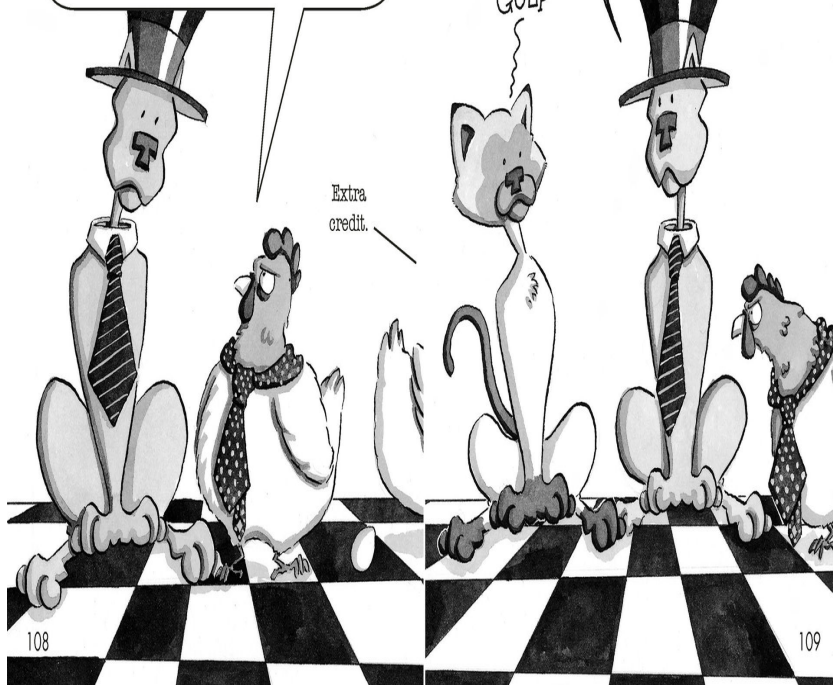
Answer: A

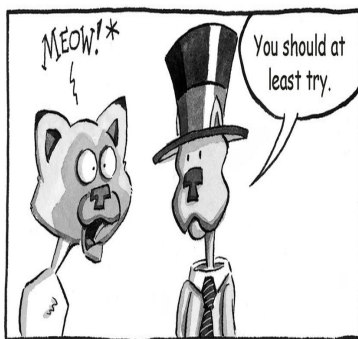
I guess this means
it's your turn.

Good luck.

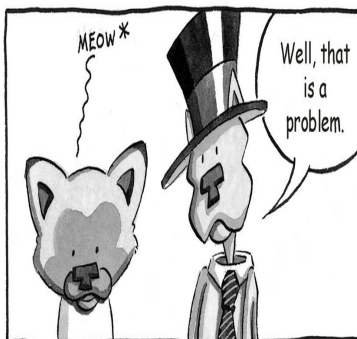
GULP

Extra
credit.

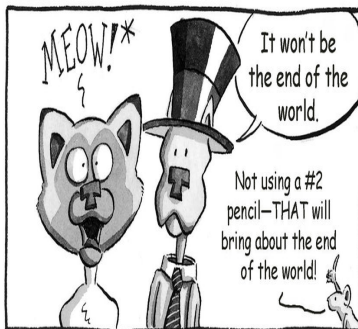




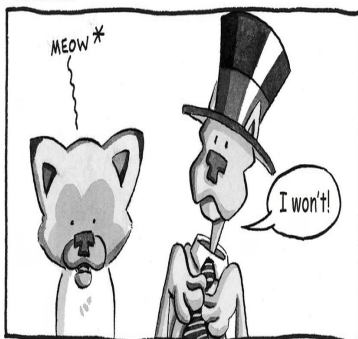
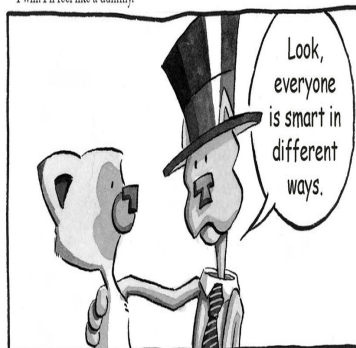
*I can't do it!



*I will. I'll feel like a dummy.

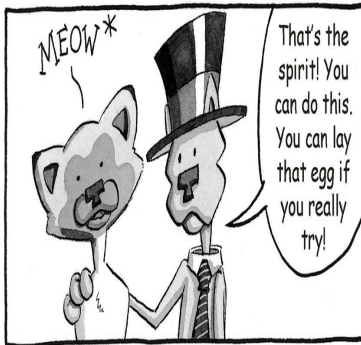


*What if I fail?!

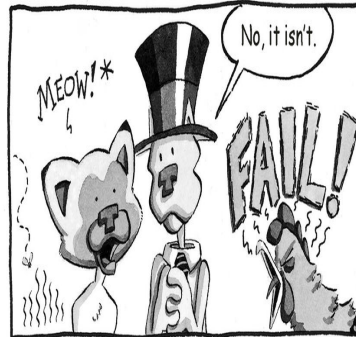


*But everyone will think I'm a dummy.

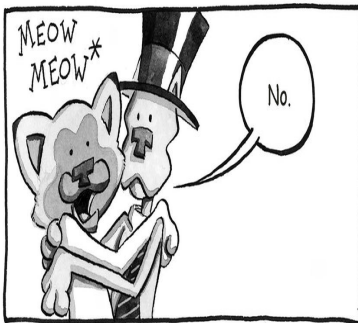
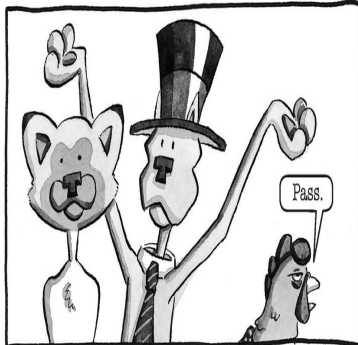
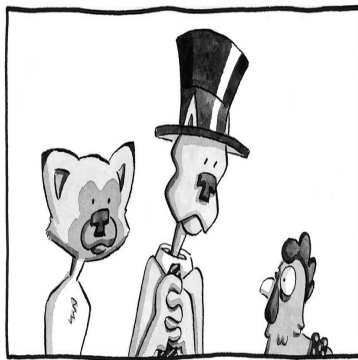




*I'll try.



*That's not an egg, is it?

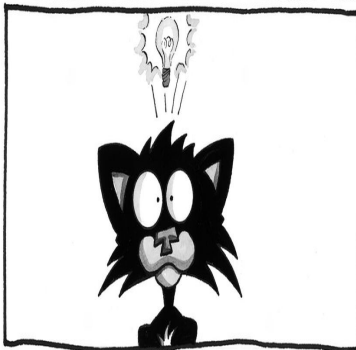


* Shall I tell you everything I know about dishwashers?





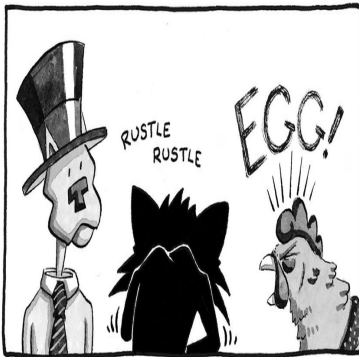


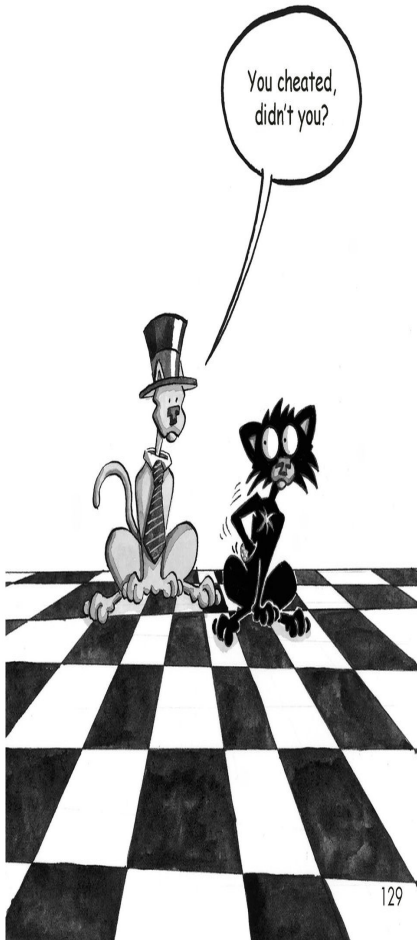
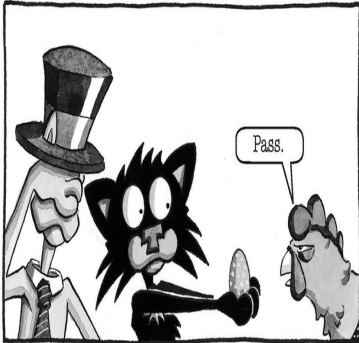
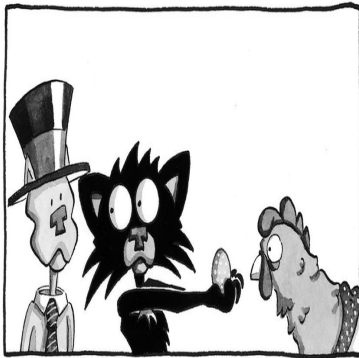


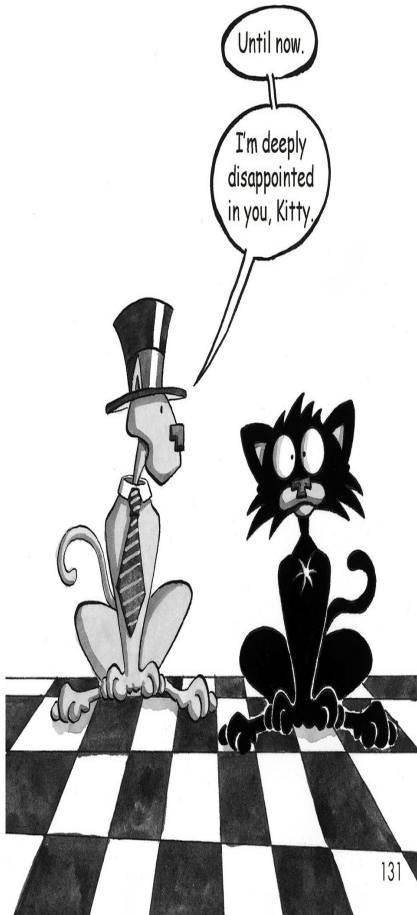
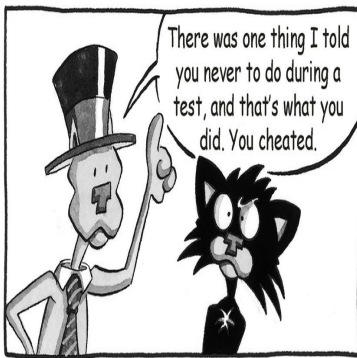


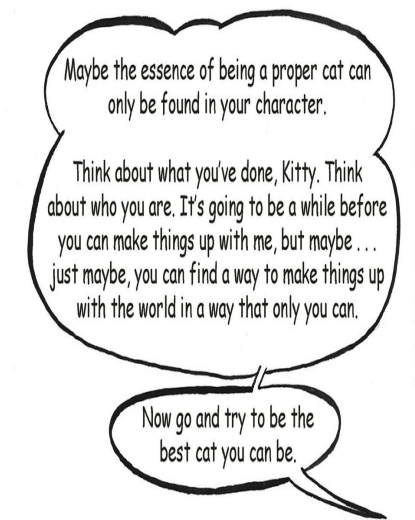
Kitty,
there is one,
and only one,
rule to taking tests—
no cheating.

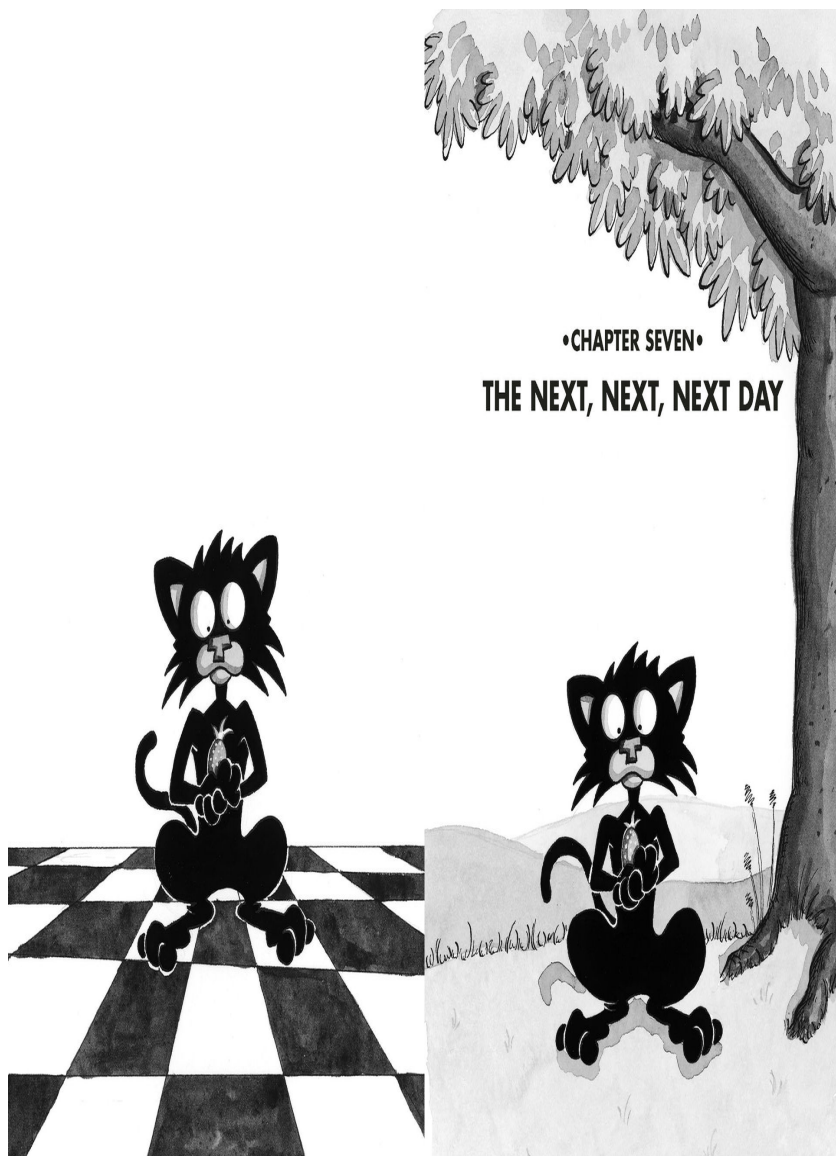


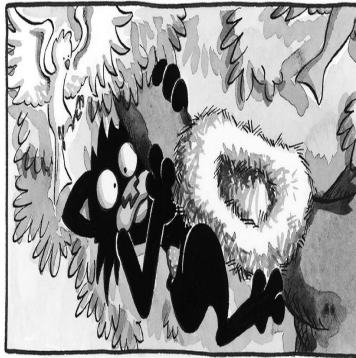


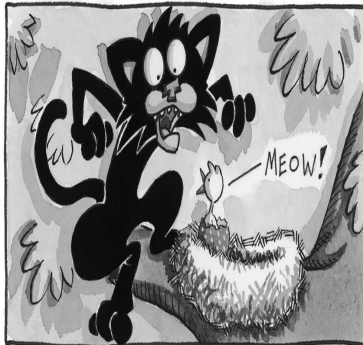




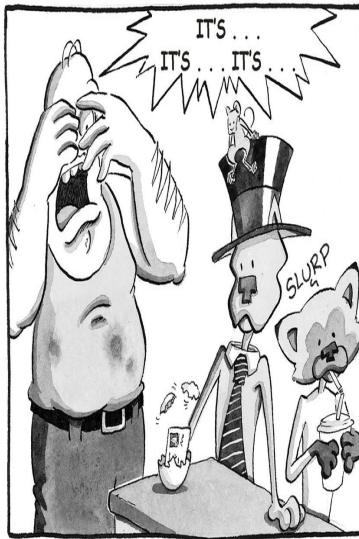




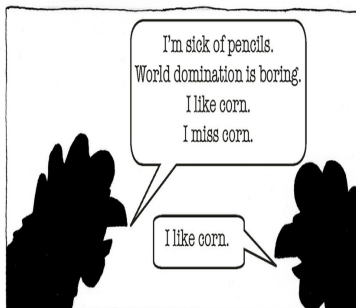
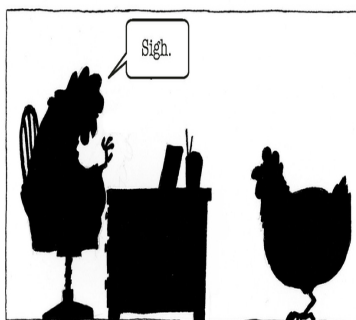




•EPILOGUE ONE•



•EPILOGUE TWO•



• A FINAL NOTE •



Kitty is a BAD kitty, but is Kitty a bad cat?

Based on her previous bad behavior, the **Society of Cat Aptitude** has determined that Kitty is not only a bad kitty, but a bad cat, as well. In order to keep her **feline status**, Kitty must take an aptitude test. If she fails, she will have those privileges revoked and will no longer be able to be a cat. With the help of her instructor, **Chatty Kitty**, and **Uncle Murray** (who is a little confused about where he is and why he's there), Kitty **learns** all about being a cat and a little about herself.

Read all the Bad Kitty books!



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mackids.com badkittybooks.com

NICK BRUEL is the author and illustrator of the phenomenally successful Bad Kitty series, including the 2012 and 2013 CBC Children's Choice Book Award winners *Bad Kitty Meets the Baby* and *Bad Kitty for President*. Nick has also written and illustrated popular picture books including *Who Is Melvin Bubble?*, *Bob and Otto*, and his most recent, *A Wonderful Year*. He lives with his wife and daughter in Westchester, New York. Visit him at nickbruel.com.